

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING February 11,, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of February 11, 2015, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance Chief of Police, Les Hutton said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Council members Parker Durham, Jerry Rhue, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Earl Murphy, Attorney Robert Merriken, Mayor Joyce Spratt, and Administrator John Avery.

Councilman Rhue made a Motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

The minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting were approved. Councilman Murphy made the Motion to Approve. Councilwoman Franz seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Audit Report from Mr. Tom Trice – Mr. Tom Trice presented to the Town, their Audit Report for the past year. He hit on some highlights of the report and stated it was a good solid report for the year. Mr. Trice reviewed the report with the Mayor and Council beginning with the financial information. Mr. Trice announced that for the first time, all general long term debt is paid off, the only outstanding debt is water and sewer related, also the tax revenue went down and cash went up. Mr. Trice stated that the Town's cash position increased by \$291,329 and the Town paid \$377,571 in long term debt. He spoke of two major projects for this year; the police station @ 1.4 million dollars and the water main @ 950 thousand dollars give or take a little. Councilman

Murphy questioned the property values and the answer was they are fairly flat right now. There was more discussion on this topic.

County Councilman Rick Price Report – County Councilman Rick Price reported information from the County Council meeting. There was discussion regarding the building code fee schedule, a public hearing on grading with the public works, introduction of legislation to establish a camp, an Ordinance on sprinklers and two work sessions on FY '16 budget. NDHS will be considered in the budget. Mayor Spratt asked about the figures on the new high school. The answer was it is not clear yet what it will cost. A meeting is scheduled to be held with the Council and schools, but might be cancelled due to weather. There was discussion regarding the baseball fields. Mayor Spratt stated the Town would need a letter from Attorney Merriken regarding what the Town would take over. There was more discussion on road work.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt announced that she attended a meeting regarding the new high school on Monday. The Mayor feels the county needs to move forward on this. The current high school is approximately 60 years old. Mayor Spratt shared news that Hebron Savings Bank new branch had an open house. She spoke with the owners of the Glen Oak Hotel regarding flag poles being placed on the property and landscaping being done. The owner was in favor of these. The Girl Scout troop would take on the task of planning flower beds and the maintenance of the flowers. Mayor Spratt announced that she would not be in attendance at the next meeting. Some discussion ensued between Councilman Rhue and the Mayor about the plantings blocking the view at the intersection where the hotel sits. There was some discussion regarding this subject.

The Council voted 5-0 in favor of cancelling the next regular meeting and having it changed to March 9th. There was no discussion and all were in favor.

Police Department Report - Chief of Police Les Hutton reported in the month of January there were 1127 calls, traffic stops, etc. In the last 2 weeks, there were 2 reportable offenses, 1 DWI, 9 misc., and 15 of 20 cases are already closed.

Fire Department Report – Councilman Rhue reported that of the numerous calls the fire department responded to one was a fender bender at the blinking light. Councilman Rhue also spoke regarding a house fire in Prospect. Councilman Cephas stated the lady that owned the house had a horrible experience losing her home to the fire. Mayor Spratt helped with clothing. The whole community pitched in to help. Members of the fire department assisted by having a control burn for the remainder of the house, to make sure things were done safely, and that the fire was out. Mr. Rhue discussed information regarding the new ladder truck. Mayor Spratt announced that this year the Town was hosting the firemen's banquet.

Old Business – Councilman Cephas made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-1; which is the transfer of Town property at 408A Charles Street to Habitat for Humanity. Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With no discussion and no one opposed, the Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-1 was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Councilman Murphy made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-2, to transfer Town property located at 208 S. Main Street to Oxford Chase Development for a Dollar General Store. Councilwoman Franz seconded the Motion and with no discussion and no one opposed the Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-2 was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Bids for the construction of the police department were received. Tim Crosby has been working with the Town since 2011. There were six qualified bids submitted, the lowest bid being from Harper & Sons. Harper and Sons were the same contractor that was low bidder and built the East New Market fire house. A meeting was held after the bid was received to try to bring the cost down. There were not a lot of changes, but they managed to cut \$33,000.00. The construction of the building is very efficiently designed. The total for the construction would be \$1,336,761.00. Other charges were explained. The USDA funded the East New Market fire house which was built with only one small charger. Hebron Savings Bank will provide the construction loan and then the USDA will pick up the loan. It was found that pre-fabricated cells would be less costly than ones built in place. The total cost would be \$1,698,701.00. The Town has the lowest interest rate that has ever been given at 3 1/8 %. The Council needs to make a decision to accept and what to finance. Construction costs continue to rise with the economy doing better and if a decision is delayed, the interest rate could be higher. Councilman Rhue asked if the construction workers were local and the answer was yes. Mr. Crosby explained that the building design is very energy efficient. Councilman Rhue made a Motion to move forward and award the contract to Harper & Sons. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no further discussion and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business - Ordinance 2015-3, Floodplain Ordinance was introduced and a vote is needed in order to repeal Ordinance 2011-1 and replace it with 2015-3. This would consist mostly of text changes and must be in place by March 16, 2015. An Emergency Ordinance would be required. A vote is needed to suspend the Charter. A Motion is needed to change the ordinance to read that the Charter and the Ordinance cannot be voted on the same night. Councilman Durham suggested changing the administrator to a person that would be appointed. Attorney Merriken stated that could be done by amendment at a later time. There was a question regarding the maximum size of an accessory structure being 300 sq. ft. or 600 sq. ft. Councilman Rhue made a Motion to suspend the Charter. Councilman Murphy seconded the Motion. With no further discussion and no one opposed the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0. A proposal is needed to amend the Charter and to adopt Ordinance 2015-3 to adopt the required Floodplain Ordinance. There was discussion on this matter and Councilman Cephas made a Motion to change the maximum square footage stated in the Ordinance from 300 sq. ft to 600 sq. ft. Councilman Durham seconded the Motion. With a vote of 5-0, the Motion was passed and carried. Councilman Murphy introduced Ordinance 2015-3. A Motion was made by Councilman Durham to adopt the Ordinance. Councilman Rhue seconded the Motion. With a vote of 5-0, the Motion was passed and carried as amended.

is under contract.
Councilmembers Comments - Councilman Durham announced his home property ~~has been~~ sold and he is going to have to resign. He encouraged residents to get involved in the Town.

Councilman Rhue spoke about how nice the Town works together, and thanked the police chief and Fire Company. He asked residents to keep an eye on their neighbors during the bad weather.

Councilman Murphy announced that a report about the Veteran's Memorial will be given during the March 9th Town Meeting. He stated he has been made aware the Town has property available. Councilman Murphy also stated he would like to bring back the fire company's carnival. The fire company would provide rider insurance for the event.

Councilman Cephas announced the annual Black List Award program will be held on February 21st at North Dorchester Middle School at 5:00 p.m. The Lt. Governor is scheduled to attend this event.

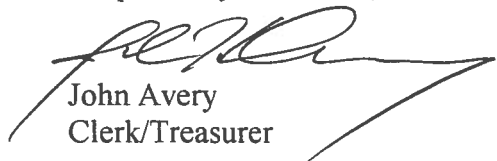
Mayor Spratt stated that two years ago a little girl's life was saved in school by a Town police officer, Devonta Watford. On the anniversary of that day, the little girl was presented with a new bicycle, clothes, and a doll that Officer Watford and his wife had purchased.

Councilman Murphy stated how wonderful it is that Hurlock has so many good things happening and is happy with the possibility of construction in the Town.

Public Comment - Ms. Janie Kellenbenz stated she felt there is one volunteer in the Town that gets over looked. She feels Mr. Joe Spratt should receive some compensation for all he does for the Town. Councilman Cephas agreed 100%.

With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted,


John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Council members:

